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## MARSVILLE COMES TO CANNON AFB

CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. - New Mexico youth will create a Mars colony at Cannon Air Force Base, near Clovis, N.M., on Friday.

Based on the Challenger Center for Space Science Education's acclaimed *Marsville® the Cosmic Village* Program, 350 fifth grade students from Clovis and Hagerman, N.M., will build 23 Red Planet habitats.

At the beginning of the school year, the students form into five to seven-person teams to learn basic colony operations, which include engineering, technology, and fine arts components. Following initial instruction, each group then plans and builds a model of a life-support structure to sustain the Martian settlement. The standard system consists of air and water supply, waste management, food production, recreation, communication, transportation, as well as temperature control. In addition, the teams design their own patches, which identify members and missions. The students do not meet until Link-Up Day, which occurs Friday.

During the event, the students will demonstrate their respective life support system models and will brief how the structures operate. After the presentations, construction of the 23 inflatable plastic habitats, which measure 12 feet by 12 feet by 8 feet, will begin. Upon completion, connecting tunnels will link all 23 settlements, and then team members and guests will conduct a walkthrough of the entire colony.

Media representatives are invited to cover the Marsville event. Event participants start arriving at 8:30 a.m. Construction of the plastic habitats will begin at approximately 10:30 a.m. and should be completed by 12 p.m. Students will depart at 1:45 p.m. Please call the Cannon AFB Public Affairs Office at 505-784-4131 to make arrangements for easy access on to the base.



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